

Leave of absence to Member.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have received a letter from Sri G. N. Desai, a member of the Assembly, requesting for leave of Absence from attending the current sittings of the Assembly due to his ill-health.

1-00 P.M.

I have received another letter from Sri M. Y. Ghorpade, member of the Assembly requesting for leave of absence from attending the Assembly from 6th March, 1965 till the close of the session as he is proceeding to Delhi to attend the meetings of the Consultative Council on Panchayat Raj.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly that leave be granted to Sri G. N. Desai and Sri M. Y. Ghorpade, to remain absent from attending the current sittings of the Assembly?

HON'BLE MEMBERS.—Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Permission to remain absent is granted.

Calling Attention Notice *re.* Non-supply of Foodgrains to Card holders of Udipi.

Sri B. BHASKARA SHETTY (Kaup).—I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the non-supply of foodgrains to the card holders of Udipi and to the hunger strike by the Municipal Councillors of Udipi.

Sri M. V. KRISHNA PPA (Minister for Revenue).—The Chairman, Municipal Council, Udipi; had sent a tel-gram intimating that the Council had resolved unanimously to undertake fast in batches of five from 16th March 1965 near the Taluk Office if the promised informal rationing of foodgrains was not introduced in the town by 15th March 1965.

I may make it clear at the outset that no such promise about introduction of informal rationing in Udipi Town with immediate effect had been given by us at any time. As the House is aware, Government have already taken action to procure paddy and jowar. According to the present indications, we expect that we would be able to procure 1,50,000 tonnes of paddy (which will be equivalent to 1,00,000 tonnes of rice) and 1,00,000 tonnes of jowar. The Government of India have promised to give us 1,50,000 tonnes of rice and an equal quantity of wheat during the current calendar year, *viz.*, 1965. Government hope that with the paddy rice and jowar procured locally and with the rice and wheat which they hope to get from the Government of India they would be able to ensure that the vulnerable section of the community could be provided with a steady though inadequate supply of foodgrains. With this end in view we have framed a programme for introducing

informal rationing in the various larger towns and areas with concentration of labour population and other special areas where the assistance of Government is considered necessary. Informal rationing has already been introduced in Bangalore City with effect from 1st November 1964 and this system has been rationalised with effect from 1st February 1965. In so far as the other towns and areas are concerned we propose to introduce informal rationing in the first stage in 18 towns and areas with effect from 1st April 1965 and in the second stage in 39 towns and areas with effect from 1st July 1965. These towns and areas have been selected with reference to the availability of foodgrains in the local area, the seasonal conditions obtaining and expected to obtain in such areas and other relevant factors.

I quite appreciate the point that South Kanara District is placed in a very peculiar position on account of its proximity to Kerala. It was, therefore, decided that informal rationing should be introduced in Mangalore town with effect from 1st April 1965 and in other towns of the District like, Udipi, Bantwal, Coondapur, Karkal and Puttur with effect from 1st July 1965.

Representations were, however, made to Government some time ago that the situation in Mangalore Town was particularly unsatisfactory and that adequate arrangements should be made to provide rice to the people of Mangalore immediately. Recognising the situation obtaining in Mangalore, small quantities of foodgrains were given on an *ad hoc* basis for the last two to three months. The issue of rations has now been stepped up to one Kg. per adult per week with effect from 10th March 1965 and the issues will be continued at this rate hereafter also.

It has now been represented that the position in Udipi also is far from satisfactory. We have considered the representations and have come to the conclusion that the situation is not as bad as has been made out. It is possible that the people of Udipi are finding some difficulty in securing their requirements of rice but representations that rice is not available cannot certainly be accepted, particularly in view of the fact that the second crop has just been harvested and the people of that area can certainly get their requirements locally at least for some time to come.

I may not be mistaken as being unsympathetic towards the representations made on behalf of the people of Udipi. I am only saying that it is premature at this stage to introduce informal rationing in that town.

It is not as though the case of Udipi could be considered in isolation. Other towns of South Kanara District which have been referred to early are, more or less, on the same footing and if the request by the people of Udipi were to be accepted and informal rationing started prematurely, similar requests are bound to come up not only from the people of the other towns of that District but also from people from other regions of the State.

(SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA)

Our programme has been put up taking into consideration the expected available of foodgrains with the Government and the requirements of vulnerability sections of the population in the entire State. Any large scale modification in this programme is bound to upset the entire arrangements and we may not be in a position to provide foodgrains to the people at a time when they require it most. I, therefore, regret that no special consideration could be shown to Udipi at the moment.

I may, however, assure the House that I shall consider their requirements with the utmost sympathy and shall, if necessary, advance the date by which the informal rationing is to be introduced in Udipi.

I am really sorry that the Municipal Council, Udipi, should have chosen to follow this agitational approach to bring their grievances to the notice of Government and the public of the State, particularly, when no genuine grievance existed. I have already requested the President of the Municipal Council, Udipi, to call off this agitation and I do hope that he will do so immediately. I need not stress the fact that Government cannot be coerced into taking any particular line of action when they themselves feel that there is no need for doing so. This principle applies, particularly, to a matter like distribution of foodgrains. I am sure the Hon'ble member of this House will agree with what I have stated and persuade the President and the members of the Municipal Council to call off this agitation immediately. We could then study the situation in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and work out the best method of giving relief to the people of that area. I may repeat that Government have an open mind and are prepared to do whatever is necessary if the circumstances of the case call for any action on their part.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಭಾಸ್ಕರ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ.—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಸರಕಾರದವರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡಿತವರನ್ನು ಹಾರಿಗೆ ತರುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಭಾಷೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು, ಹಾಗೆ ಭಾಷೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದನ್ನು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿ ಜನಕ್ಕೆ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸಿಕೊಡದೇ ಹೋದುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಈ ಸಭಾ ತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಭಾಸ್ಕರಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಜೀವನಾಥ ಐಕಲರವರು ಸಭೆಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಗಮಿಸಿದರು.

SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA.—There is Food Council. Mr. Madhavaraj, M.L.A. and some others are there. We are prepared to co-operate with them and supply rice to them tomorrow or day-after.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದಯ್ಯ ಕಾಶೀಮಠ (ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ನಿನ್ನೆಯ ದಿವಸ ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷನ್ನು ಎವರಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದುದನ್ನು ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ತಾವು ಹಾಕಿದಿರಿ. ಅದಷ್ಟು ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಈ ಸೆಷನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಯುವುದರೊಳಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಗಳು ಬರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೋರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

MR. SPEAKER.—I have passed on all the supplementaries to the Hon'ble Food Minister. In a week or so, it could be done. That is a small matter.